

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A battery cell, comprising:
 - an active metal anode comprising lithium having a first surface and a second surface;
 - a cathode structure comprising an electronically conductive component, an ionically conductive component, and an electrochemically active component, wherein at least one cathode structure component comprises an aqueous constituent;
 - an ionically conductive protective membrane on the first surface of the anode, the membrane comprising,
 - a first material component in contact with the anode that is ionically conductive and chemically compatible with lithium, the first material component comprising a ~~composite reaction product of lithium with~~ a material selected from the group consisting of a ~~composite reaction product of lithium with a Cu₃N, a composite reaction product of lithium with PbI₂, and a reaction product of lithium with red phosphorus metal nitride, red phosphorus and a metal halide~~, and
 - a second material component in contact with the first material component, the second material being substantially impervious, ionically conductive and chemically compatible with the first material component and the cathode structure, the second material component selected from the group consisting of ceramic active metal ion conductors and glass-ceramic active metal ion conductors.
2. (original) The cell of claim 1, wherein the cathode structure comprises an aqueous electrochemically active component.
3. (original) The cell of claim 2, wherein the aqueous electrochemically active component is water.
4. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 2, wherein the aqueous electrochemically active component comprises a water soluble oxidant selected from the group consisting of gaseous, liquid and solid oxidants and combinations thereof.

5. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 4, wherein the water soluble gaseous oxidants are selected from the group consisting of O₂, SO₂ and NO₂, and the water soluble solid oxidants are selected from the group consisting of NaNO₂, KNO₂, Na₂SO₃ and K₂SO₃.
6. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 4, wherein the water soluble oxidant is a peroxide.
7. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 6, wherein the water soluble oxidant is hydrogen peroxide.
8. (original) The cell of claim 1, wherein the ionically conductive component and the electrochemically active component are comprised of an aqueous electrolyte.
9. (original) The cell of claim 8, wherein the aqueous electrolyte is selected from the group consisting of strong acid solutions, weak acid solutions, basic solutions, neutral solutions, amphoteric solutions, peroxide solutions and combinations thereof.
10. (original) The cell of claim 8, wherein the aqueous electrolyte comprises members selected from the group consisting of aqueous solutions of HCl, H₂SO₄, H₃PO₄ acetic acid/Li acetate, LiOH; sea water, LiCl, LiBr, LiI, NH₄Cl, NH₄Br and hydrogen peroxide, and combinations thereof.
11. (original) The cell of claim 10, wherein the aqueous electrolyte is sea water.
12. (original) The cell of claim 10, wherein the aqueous electrolyte comprises sea water and hydrogen peroxide.
13. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 9, wherein the aqueous electrolyte comprises an acidic peroxide solution.
14. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 9, wherein hydrogen peroxide dissolved in aqueous electrolyte flowing through the cell.
15. (original) The cell of claim 2, wherein the cathode structure electronically conductive component is a porous catalytic support.
16. (original) The cell of claim 15, wherein the porous catalytic electronically conductive support is reinforced.
17. (original) The cell of claim 15, wherein the porous catalytic electronically conductive support comprises nickel.

18. (original) The cell of claim 15, wherein the porous catalytic electronically conductive support comprises an inert material impregnated with a water reducing catalyst.

19. (original) The cell of claim 15, wherein the porous catalytic electronically conductive support is treated with an ionomer.

20. (original) The cell of claim 2, wherein the cell has an open cell voltage of at least 2 V.

21. (original) The cell of claim 12, wherein the cell has a flat discharge potential of at least 3.5 V.

22. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 14, further comprising a separator disposed between the protective membrane and the cathode structure.

23. (original) The cell of claim 1, further comprising a PEM H₂/O₂ fuel cell to capture hydrogen released from the cathode structure in the battery cell redox reaction.

24. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 1, wherein the cathode structure electrochemically active material comprises air.

25. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 24, wherein the air comprises moisture.

26. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 25, wherein the ionically conductive material comprises an aqueous constituent.

27. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 26, wherein the ionically conductive material further comprises an ionomer.

28. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 26, wherein the ionically conductive material comprises a neutral or acidic aqueous electrolyte.

29. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 28, wherein the aqueous electrolyte comprises LiCl.

30. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 28, wherein the aqueous electrolyte comprises one of NH₄Cl, and HCl.

31. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 24, wherein the cathode structure comprises an air diffusion membrane, a hydrophobic polymer layer, an oxygen reduction catalyst, an electrolyte, and an electronically conductive component/current collector.

32. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 24, wherein the electronically conductive component/current collector comprises a porous nickel material.

33. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 24, wherein the cell has an open cell voltage of at least 3 V.

34. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 24, wherein the cell has a flat discharge potential of about 2.9 V at a discharge rate of 0.3 mA/cm^2 for at least 25 hours.

35. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 24, wherein the cell has a discharge capacity of at least 10 mAh/cm^2 .

36. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 32, further comprising a separator disposed between the protective membrane and the cathode structure.

37. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 1, wherein the cathode structure electrochemically active component comprises a metal hydride alloy.

38. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 37, wherein the cathode structure ionically conductive component comprises an aqueous electrolyte.

39. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 38, wherein the aqueous electrolyte is acidic.

40. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 39, wherein the aqueous electrolyte comprises a halide acid or acidic salt.

41. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 40, wherein the aqueous electrolyte comprises a chloride or bromide acid or acidic salt.

42. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 41, wherein the aqueous electrolyte comprises one of HCl, HBr, NH_4Cl and NH_4Br .

43. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 37, wherein the metal hydride alloy comprises one of an AB_5 and an AB_2 alloy.

44. (original) The cell of claim 1, wherein the active metal is lithium.

45. (original) The cell of claim 44, wherein wherein the cathode structure comprises an aqueous electrochemically active component.

46. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 44, wherein the cathode structure electrochemically active material comprises air.

47. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 44, wherein the cathode structure electrochemically active component comprises a metal hydride alloy.

48. (original) The cell of claim 1, wherein the ionic conductivity of the protective membrane is at least 10^{-7} S/cm.

49. (original) The cell of claim 1, wherein the ionic conductivity of the protective membrane is at least 10^{-5} S/cm.

50. (canceled)

51. (previously presented) The cell of claim 1, wherein the protective composite is a laminate.

52. (previously presented) The cell of claim 1, wherein the protective composite is graded.

53. (previously presented) The cell of claim 1, wherein the active metal of the negative electrode is lithium or a lithium alloy.

54. (currently amended) The cell of claim 1, wherein the first component comprises a material selected from the group consisting of a ~~composite~~ reaction product of lithium with Cu_3N , red phosphorus ~~and~~ Pb_2I .

55. (previously presented) The cell of claim 1, wherein the first layer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of a composite reaction product of Li with Cu_3N .

56. (previously presented) The cell of claim 1, wherein the second component is a glass-ceramic active metal ion conductor.

57. (previously presented) The cell of claim 56, wherein the second component is an ion conductive glass-ceramic having the following composition:

| Composition | mol % |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| P_2O_5 | 26-55% |
| SiO_2 | 0-15% |
| $\text{GeO}_2 + \text{TiO}_2$ | 25-50% |
| in which GeO_2 | 0-50% |
| TiO_2 | 0-50% |

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| ZrO ₂ | 0-10% |
| M ₂ O ₃ | 0 < 10% |
| Al ₂ O ₃ | 0-15% |
| Ga ₂ O ₃ | 0-15% |
| Li ₂ O | 3-25% |

and containing a predominant crystalline phase composed of $\text{Li}_{1+x}(\text{M,Al,Ga})_x(\text{Ge}_{1-y}\text{Ti}_y)_{2-x}(\text{PO}_4)_3$ where $X \leq 0.8$ and $0 \leq Y \leq 1.0$, and where M is an element selected from the group consisting of Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Tb, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm and Yb and/or and $\text{Li}_{1+x+y}\text{Q}_x\text{Ti}_{2-x}\text{Si}_y\text{P}_{3-y}\text{O}_{12}$ where $0 < X \leq 0.4$ and $0 < Y \leq 0.6$, and where Q is Al or Ga.

58. (original) The cell of claim 1, wherein the cell is a primary cell.
59. (original) The cell of claim 1, wherein the cell is a rechargeable cell.
60. (original) The cell of claim 1, wherein the cell has a planar configuration.
61. (original) The cell of claim 60, wherein the cell is bonded into a flexible array of like cells by elastomeric seals.
62. (original) The cell of claim 1, wherein the cell has a tubular configuration.
63. (original) The cell of claim 1, wherein the cell comprise a capillary construction.
64. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 1, wherein the active metal is lithium and the cathode structure comprises an aqueous ionically conductive component and a transition metal oxide electrochemically active component.
65. (withdrawn) The cell of claim 64, wherein the a transition metal oxide is selected from the group consisting of NiOOH, AgO, iron oxide, lead oxide and manganese oxide.
66. (withdrawn) A electrochemical cell structure, comprising:
 - an active metal anode having a first surface and a second surface;
 - a porous catalytic electronically conductive support;

an ionically conductive protective membrane on the first surface of the anode, the membrane comprising,

one or more materials configured to provide a first surface chemically compatible with the active metal of the anode, and a second surface substantially impervious to and chemically compatible with the catalytic electronically conductive support, and aqueous environments.

67-69. (canceled)